

USACE FINANCE CENTER
BIWEEKLY REPORT
PERIOD ENDING 1 OCTOBER 1999

CEFMS:

CEFMS ISSUES:

a. We have completed the CEFMS fiscal year end closing process. Although we experienced some challenges related to the downtime at the Western Processing Center (WPC) on Thursday 30 September we recovered and completed the fiscal year end closing at 0610 hours CDT Monday 4 October 1999. As of 1500 hours CDT only the Los Angeles District was still entering accounting transactions that occurred during the downtime on 30 September.

As of 0610 hours on Monday 4 October 1999 all sixty-three (63) CEFMS databases had completed the fiscal year end closing process.

Since the last database was closed before 0700 hours CDT, our normal start time, our position is that we used one workday and three calendar days to accomplish the closing. The actual clock time from the very first action, the Japan District kicked off at 2230 hours on 30 September 1999 CDT, was 79 hours and forty minutes.

This is an outstanding effort from everybody involved, the sites preparing their databases, the fiscal year end closing team which included both government and contractor personnel, and the processing centers. The time required is also a reflection of the maturity of the system. The personnel that make CEFMS operate are becoming more knowledgeable of the system's capabilities and how to make automation work for them.

This year we established a web site to display the status of progress toward fiscal yearend closeout and provided the web site address to the key players.

b. Our implementation plan for the CEFMS functionality that provides for Automated MIPR's (Funds Transfer and Acceptance) between USACE locations is to release the narrative description and operational procedures on Friday 15 October and follow with the release of the functionality on Friday 22 October 1999. This functionality provides for almost instantaneous transfer of funds between USACE locations while eliminating duplicate manual effort by both the ordering (requesting) and performing (receiving) activity. The following describes the process and the benefits

that will be derived from this new functionality:

THE PROCESS:

- Real time electronic transfer of government orders between USACE activities.
- Government order (MIPR) electronically transmitted from ordering activity to performing activity.
- Customer order data (requesting activity) automatically recorded on performing activity's CEFMS database.
- Customer order acceptance (performing activity) electronically transmitted to requesting activity.
- Government order obligation data automatically recorded.
- Real time data integrity verification/identification before transfer.

BENEFITS:

- Eliminates manual printing/mailing/faxing of government orders (MIPR's) and acceptance of orders.
- Eliminates manual entry of government (customer) order information on performing activity's CEFMS database.
- Eliminates manual entry of acceptance on requesting activity's CEFMS database.
- Insures data integrity between USACE locations.

c. In response to CECI-L 30 August 1999 memorandum, subject; Testing of Mission Critical Contingency Plans and DISC4's Evaluation of Your Existing Contingency Plan, we reviewed, updated and tested our CEFMS Y2K Contingency Plan. As a result of our review and analysis we developed an addendum to our plan which provides our approach for remote connectivity. Based upon an extensive review we believe that any potential Y2K risks are offset by the Corps capability to ensure continued connectivity and financial accounting operability. During our testing two scenarios were utilized. We conducted Y2K impact analysis utilizing live and simulated conditions in relation to our emergency response to Hurricane Floyd which affected the four Atlantic coastal districts in the South Atlantic Division. We also conducted a test of Y2K impacts to connectivity within our Contingency Plan evaluation.

PROBLEM REPORTS/IMBALANCES:

a. The open problem report inventory is 718 versus 779 on the last report. The inventory includes 79 Priority #1 problem reports. The open inventory also includes 4 problem reports related to the CEFMS Modernization/GUI work management effort.

The current number of open problem reports, 718, is the lowest biweekly total since the period ending 2 January 1997. This total represents the lowest end of the fiscal year number since FY 96 when we had 608 open problems. On that date we had twenty-two (22) sites deployed on CEFMS.

b. There were no CEFMS database imbalances when we initiated the fiscal year end closeout procedure for each database.

ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS:

CONSOLIDATION OF OPERATING FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS:

UPCOMING CONSOLIDATIONS:

-----CURRENT SCHEDULE COMPLETE-----

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF ON BOARD PERSONNEL:

<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>NUMBER:</u>
Huntsville	27
Millington	276
Washington	2
Other	1
DA Interns (Millington)	3
Total	309

DISBURSING WORKLOAD DATA:

PAYMENTS	As of 08/31/99	Current Month	FINAL-09/30/99
BY CHECK:			

Checks Issued	288,072	42,128	330,200
Percent of Total	69%	56%	67%
Dollar Amount	\$4,110,694,574	\$669,830,923	\$4,780,525,497

BY EFT:			
Transfers Made	130,513	32,521	163,034
Percent of Total	31%	44%	33%
Dollar Amount	\$3,021,245,375	\$611,765,793	\$3,633,011,168

OTHER UFC ISSUES:

a. We have been working a paper to be entitled "Electronic

Commerce Capabilities" requested by Steve Butler, CERM-F. The paper will discuss Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), the preferred method for USACE payments, On Line Payments and Collections (OPAC), which is a electronic commerce for collections and disbursements between government agencies, and Remittance Express (REX) which will allow public vendors to EFT to the USACE. The use of REX will be of special benefit for our cost sharing sponsors to transfer monies to us. When this paper is complete it will be published by CERM-F.

b. There are two AAA auditors on site with us observing the fiscal year end closing process. Their effort is related to our quest for an unqualified opinion on the FY 99 CFO Financial Statements.

c. On Monday 20 September we held our quarterly employee meeting. This was the first quarterly employee meeting held since we moved back to Building 787. We covered the following topics; Facility, Status of our effort with DFAS, Rumor Control, Y2K Preparation, Teamwork, Fiscal Year End Closing, CFO Progress, Emergency Response to Hurricane Floyd, and Recognized Individuals for Special Achievement. We recognized the thirty-one employees that had been instrumental in the relocation from Kmart to Building 787. Twenty-three individuals received time off awards, three individuals received special act awards, and five employees received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. Tom Brockman, Deputy Director for Accounting Operation received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his contribution to the establishment of the USACE Finance Center and consolidation of the operating finance and accounting functions. Mr. Stephen Coakley, Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, HQUSACE, presented the special act awards, the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service awards, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award to Mr. Brockman.

Following the presentation Mr. Coakley spoke to the UFC employees and participated in the reception, honoring Mr. Brockman, which was held immediately following the employees meeting.